

Congressman DeFazio has long been a vocal advocate for balancing the federal budget deficit, and has consistently spoken out against the severe erosion of fiscal responsibility in Washington, DC. He voted against the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout, against the \$789 billion stimulus bill, against the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy, and against the war in Iraq. These four items, along with lost tax revenue from the recession, make up nearly all of the current federal deficit. Congressman DeFazio was also one of only a handful of Democrats to vote in favor of a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1995.

The current debt load is clearly not sustainable. Of our \$13 trillion in debt, \$8 trillion was accumulated in the past 10 years. That is an average of almost \$1 trillion per year. It unfairly burdens our children, grandchildren and their children with a debt they did not accumulate. And, it puts our country more and more in hock to foreign investors, which poses a threat not just to our financial stability, but also to our national security.

Congressman DeFazio is committed ending Congress' habit of spending money that they do not have. He voted in favor of a long overdue PAYGO Act. PAYGO requires that any legislative changes that would increase the deficit - whether spending increases or tax cuts - must be offset by equal spending cuts or revenue increases. We know this law works. During the 1990s, the law played an important role in bringing the federal budget deficit under control. By 2000, the federal budget was actually in surplus and not a single dollar of surplus Social Security money was borrowed for other purposes. DeFazio also consistently votes against congressional pay raises, and for more than a decade has linked his pay to cost of living adjustments for Social Security recipients.

In the 111th Congress (2009-2010)

□ In June 2009, H.R. 2920, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2009, which would reinstate the pay-as-you-go rules, recently passed the House of Representatives with my support. This bill

would rein in new entitlement spending and new tax cuts, and it would codify common sense-when you are in a hole, stop digging.

□ In July 2009, H.RES.714 Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that any interest or dividends repaid to the government through the Troubled Asset Relief Program should be used solely for debt reduction, consistent with the authorizing legislation and Article One, Section Nine of the United States Constitution.

□ In December 2009, DeFazio introduced H.R.4191, the Let Wall Street Pay for the Restoration of Main Street Act of 2009. This bill would send half of the revenue raised by a small tax on Wall Street transaction to pay down the deficit. All retirement and other middle class investments are exempt, so only the Wall Street traders pay. After the \$700 billion bailout to Wall Street by the taxpayers, it's time for the Wall Street to chip in and help pay down the deficit.

In the 110th Congress (2007-2008)

□ □ In December 2007, DeFazio organized a letter to House Leadership making the case for why all Democrats should only support an Alternative Minimum Tax fix that does not add to the deficit. He was joined by 17 Democrats on the letter.

□ On January 5, 2007, DeFazio voted in favor of a change in House rules to crack down on earmarks. The changes: (1) require committees to publish a list of earmarks in legislation and make it available to the public (2) require that the member who requests an earmark be listed along with the earmark in any spending bill, authorizing bill (such as the highway bill) or tax bill (3) prohibit trading earmarks for votes and (4) require members to certify that they (and their spouses) have no personal financial interest in the request.

□ The change in House rules also reinstated the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules. PAYGO requires that any mandatory spending increases or tax cuts be offset by spending cuts or tax increases elsewhere in the federal budget so the deficit does not increase.

□ On May 17, 2007, DeFazio vote in favor of final passage of S.Con.Res. 21, the fiscal year 2008 federal budget. S.Con.Res. 21 would balance the budget by 2012, require Congress to abide by PAYGO for additional tax cuts or spending increases, while still providing adequate funding for domestic priorities like education, health care, and infrastructure.

□ DeFazio is again a cosponsor of H.R. 1353, the Social Security Truth in Budgeting Act, legislation to prohibit the Social Security surpluses from being included in the federal budget baseline and from being used to offset any other spending or tax cuts.

In the 109th Congress (2005-2006):

□ On September 14, 2006, DeFazio voted in favor of H.Res. 1000, legislation to change House rules and require earmarks to be publicly listed along with their sponsors in the reports accompanying bills. H.Res. 1000 was adopted by a vote of 245-171.

□ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1642, the Obligation of Funds Transparency Act. This bipartisan legislation would require that all earmarks be included in the text of a bill, not just in the committee report. This would allow members to offer amendments to strike specific earmarks and reduce wasteful spending.

□ DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 4890, the Legislative Line-Item Veto Act. This legislation attempts to get around an earlier Supreme Court ruling declaring the line-item veto to be unconstitutional by requiring Congress to have a final vote on any line-item cuts the President proposes. H.R. 4890 was approved by the House on June 22, 2006.

□ DeFazio voted against H.Con.Res. 95, the fiscal year 2006 federal budget drafted by the House Republican leadership. DeFazio voted against it because of the gimmicks that were used to mask the true size of the deficit and because of the runaway deficits that would be tolerated under the budget plan. Without using Social Security surpluses to mask the deficit, the deficit in 2006 under the Republican plan was projected to be \$564.5 billion, falling to only \$463.5 billion in 2010. The Republican budget proposed using every single penny of the Social Security surplus for other government spending and tax cuts over the next five years. When compared against current law, the Republican budget will actually increase the deficit over the next five years by \$127 billion due to additional tax cuts, increased defense and foreign affairs spending, and increased interest costs. The national debt would also rise every single year from \$8.6 trillion in 2006 to \$11.1 trillion in 2010. H.Con.Res. 95 was approved by the House 218-214 on March 17, 2005. The final version was approved by the House 214-211 on April 28, 2005.

□ DeFazio voted against H.Con.Res. 376, the fiscal year 2007 federal budget drafted by the House Republican leadership. The budget contained the same flaws as the 2006 version: large deficits, more tax cuts that exacerbate those deficits, and spending cuts in key areas.

□ DeFazio also voted against H.R. 4241, the so-called budget reconciliation bill, which included more than \$50 billion in cuts to critical programs such as food stamps, student loans, Medicare, Medicaid, and child care assistance, among others. DeFazio did so because, when combined with the additional tax cuts in H.R. 4297, the tax portion of the reconciliation package, the Republicans were proposing to actually increase the deficit by \$35 billion - \$50 billion in order to extend tax cuts like the dividend and capital gains tax reductions that primarily benefit the wealthy. As a contrast, in a November 17, 2005, op-ed, DeFazio proposed a variety of spending cuts and tax changes he supports that would bring the federal budget back toward balance. Among DeFazio's suggestions for spending cuts were: cut corporate farm subsidies and subsidies to farmers with over \$100,000 per year income, saving \$25 billion; cancel the fanciful and defective "Star Wars" system and the Cold War era F22 fighter jet saving a total of \$60 billion; cancel the manned return to the moon mission, saving \$50 billion; reduce corporate subsidies in the new Medicare prescription drug program, saving \$10 billion; reduce the number of consultants employed by the federal government by 150,000, saving \$33 billion; and a planned end to the US occupation in Iraq, redeployment of some troops to Afghanistan to hunt down Osama bin Laden, and bringing the rest of the troops home would save at least \$50 billion a year. Spending cuts for those few programs total almost five times the cuts proposed in the Republican proposed "budget reconciliation," without hitting struggling families. On the tax side, DeFazio proposed, instead of extending new tax cuts for earners over \$300,000, restore the rates they paid during the booming 1990's. That would reduce the projected deficit by \$327 billion in five short years. If we restricted offshore tax shelters we could reduce the deficit at least another \$33 billion. If we reinstated the superfund tax so polluters paid to clean up their own messes, we could drop it another \$10 billion. Limiting the estate tax exemption to \$6 million and progressively taxing larger estates could cut the deficit by \$31 billion a year. These bills

were combined into a single package, and H.R. 4297 was signed into law on May 17, 2006.

□ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 903, the Fiscal Honesty and Accountability Act of 2005. This legislation would cap discretionary spending for the next three years at the same levels requested by President Bush. This legislation would also reform the "emergency" spending loophole that allows Congress to spend billions of dollars a year outside the normal budget process. And, H.R. 903 would reinstate the so-called "pay-as-you-go" rules that helped bring the budget into balance in the late 1990s. These rules require that any legislative changes that would increase the deficit -- whether spending increases or tax cuts -- must be offset by cuts or revenue increases somewhere else in the budget.

□ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.Res. 121, a bill to amend the rules of the House to strengthen oversight of the federal budget process. The bill: repeals the current rule that allows for automatic increases in the debt limit; requires roll call votes on all bills authorizing new spending over \$50 million; requires written justifications for earmarks; requires CBO cost estimates for every bill that Congress votes on; requires a 3 day lay-over for a bill before it can be voted on; and requires periodic reports on committee compliance with these rules.

□ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 653, the Social Security Truth in Budgeting Act, legislation to prohibit the Social Security surpluses from being included in the federal budget baseline and from being used to offset any other spending or tax cuts.

In the 108th Congress (2003-2004)

□ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 3995, the Assuring Fiscal Honesty and Accountability Act of 2004, which would cap discretionary spending for the next three years at the same levels requested by President Bush. This legislation would also reform the "emergency" spending loophole that allows Congress to spend billions of dollars a year outside the normal budget process. And, H.R. 3995 would reinstate the so-called "pay-as-you-go" rules that helped bring the budget into balance in the late 1990s. These rules require that any legislative changes that would increase the deficit -- whether spending increases or tax cuts -- must be offset by cuts or revenue increases somewhere else in the budget.

□ In his May 2004 newsletter to Oregonians, DeFazio outlined nearly a dozen steps that could be taken to balance the federal budget over ten years. Among the items DeFazio mentioned were: cancelling the Star Wars missile defense system, cracking down on corporate tax avoidance, freezing foreign military and economic aid, freezing tax cuts for those making more than \$311,000 a year, repealing subsidies in the Medicare bill for the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, reducing consultant employed by the federal government, and canceling at least one of the Pentagon's three virtually identical fighters jets under development.

□ DeFazio voted against the House Republican budget resolution, which largely mirrored President Bush's proposed budget, because Relative to current law, the Republican budget will increase the deficit by \$247 billion over the next five years and \$1.6 trillion over the next 10 years. Plus, it would spend every penny of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds on other government programs and to fund tax cuts for wealthy Americans. This budget would exacerbate federal budget deficits by providing for \$153 billion in tax cuts over five years, \$1.2 trillion over 10 years.

□ DeFazio drafted an alternative budget framework for FY2004-2013 that included: his economic stimulus plan; targeted spending increases in education, homeland security and veterans, among other areas; a freeze on tax cuts for those making more than \$311,000 a year and estates over \$5 million; reductions in nuclear energy and fossil fuel subsidies; reductions in redundant, irrelevant, and under-performing Pentagon programs. Unlike the President's budget, which would add \$1 trillion in debt, DeFazio's budget framework would have paid off some existing debt and achieved unified balance by 2013.

□ DeFazio voted against H.R. 4520, a corporate tax cut bill that will add more than \$200 billion to the deficit over 10 years when the budget gimmicks are removed.

□ During floor consideration of H.R. 4663, the so-called Spending Control Act, on June 24, 2004, DeFazio supported a couple of amendments to improve fiscal responsibility, including:

- o An amendment by Rep. Brady (R-TX) to establish a Federal Sunset Commission to review all federal agencies and programs for their efficiency, effectiveness, redundancy, and need. This amendment was approved 272-140.

o An amendment by Rep. Kirk (R-IL) to require CBO to prepare an annual report comparing budgeted entitlement spending to actual entitlement spending for the prior fiscal year. This amendment was approved 289-121.

o An amendment by Rep. Ryan (R-WI) to set up a expedited process to for the President to propose to Congress rescissions in wasteful spending in appropriations bills. This amendment failed 174-237.

□ DeFazio voted against final passage of H.R. 4663 because it contained too many loopholes and unrealistic assumptions to be useful. Instead, DeFazio voted in favor of an alternative budget reform bill based on H.R. 3995. The alternative DeFazio supported failed 179-233, while H.R. 4663 failed 146-268.

□ Named a "Treasury Guardian" by the non-partisan, non-profit Taxpayers for Common Sense for his votes to cut wasteful and unnecessary federal spending and subsidies in 2003. This is the fifth year in a row Rep. DeFazio has received this honor.

In the 107th Congress (2001-2003)

□ DeFazio voted against the tax cuts advocated by President Bush because he did not believe that the surpluses that were supposedly being returned to taxpayers would actually materialize. Unfortunately, they did not, which means that our nation is borrowing trillions of dollars in order

to fund tax cuts.

In the 106th Congress (1999-2000)

□ DeFazio drafted legislation, the Comprehensive Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability Act," legislation that contained program eliminations, reductions, and reforms in a variety of areas; increased fees for the nuclear waste fund; and closed multinational corporate tax loopholes. The DeFazio legislation would have reduced the deficit by \$145 billion over five years.

DeFazio was rated the second most fiscally conservative Democrat in the House of Representatives according to the National Taxpayers Union's analysis of his voting record in 1999.

In the 104th Congress (1995-1996)

DeFazio was one of only 72 Democrats to vote in favor of H.J.Res. 1, a Constitutional amendment to require the federal government to run a balanced budget (Roll Call Vote #51, January 26, 1995). The amendment was approved by the House 300-132, but fell one vote short of the two-thirds necessary in the Senate.